The MEANING of this CONVENTION

The die is cast. The ASU has chosen the direction it will take.

We intend to state quite clearly what that direction is and where it will lead. We know that many of the delegates who also oppose the decisions adopted will disagree with our interpretation; however, they will learn we are correct from the future developments of the ASU.

The decisions of the convention, while clear in their general character, are actually only transitional policies. The ASU has set its feet upon a long road, and its speed along that road will increase in the course of the coming year.

1. WAR

The adoption of a collective-security program by the ASU is not merely a "regrettable mistake," as some will not merely be a regrettable mistake when the US government plunges us into the coming war. By its action, the ASU leaves the anti-war movement over to the Democrats and the suffocating Armed Forces. The present pre-war period is above all a period of the mobilization of the consciences of the people for imperialist war, and the ASU, with its present policies and leadership, can be considered nothing else but one among the other recruiting agencies. The program of the ASU is now a program of preparation for the coming battle.

We take it upon ourselves to predict the following: that this preparation will be carried out by the ASU in the only way but surely, to the abandonment of the struggle against American war preparations—as if the military and naval budgets were the only battlefront. The fight for the abolition of the ROTC will be pushed more and more into the background of this period. We predict that not only will the militancy of the Anti-War Strike be dissipated, but that the strike itself is on the road to extinction; and where the strike remains as a vestigial form, it will more and more take on the character of a patriotic demonstration. You do not think this will happen? Then saw this leaflet and read it a year from now. This is the logic of collective security.

We, as well as other consistent anti-war elements, can no longer support the program of the ASU. The debate at the convention will be transferred to the general public in society, and the outcome of the struggle against American war preparations is left to the exercise of the forces of war and the fighters against imperialist war.

2. TOWARD A ROOSEVELT STUDENT UNION

In internal politics, the direction of the ASU is likewise clear. It is toward integrating the ASU into the Roosevelt machine. The greetings sent by FDR to the convention for the first time in the history of the student movement represent a significant change in policy. As the convention was opening, the New York Daily News reported that Roosevelt was following "right to left" the war resolution. No alternatives to the collective-security resolution were permitted on the floor. At the risk of breaking the taboo on the subject, we must clearly indicate the responsibility. This disruptive procedure was pushed through by means of the mechanical majority of the Young Communist League, the same organization which calls for the expulsion of the Trotskyists. The ASU no longer supports for "liberative" the collectivization of all groups inside the ASU; it obviously considers that only a majority groups has a right to exist, denying that right to minority groups which even some of the most conservative trade unions, such as the I.W.W., have on occasion.

This system exists inside the YCL itself, but its importation into the ASU menaces minority expression in the organization.

Our program. The fight against war will be carried on. It means consistent fight against the "enemy at home" our own imperialist government. One cannot avoid the implications of an anti-imperialist overthrow of the government, to set up a workers' government which can really inspire peace.

The fight against war will be carried on by the ASU. We set as our task the creation of the Young People's Socialist League (Fourth International) the rallying of all the anti-war forces on this basis.

The World War brought the collapse of the socialist parties of the Second International. Today, in advance, both the Second International and the Third International of Stalin, with its puppet communist parties, declare their readiness to support the coming imperialist war. That is why we join with the revolutionary socialist movements of all countries to build the new International to continue the struggle against war, and for the principles of Lenin.

The struggle against war is the struggle for the Fourth International, for revolutionary socialism. JOIN US IN THE FIGHT!